



Clinical Program Frequently Asked Questions

ELIGIBILITY	
Who is eligible to apply for the clinical practice enhancement?	Registered social workers who are on the general registry and have completed a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree are eligible to apply. Applicants with a BSW are not eligible, even if they have clinical practice experience. Additionally, applicants with a related counselling degree (i.e.: MPsych, MSc) are also not eligible to apply.
I have a BSW but have been working in a clinical social work capacity. Am I eligible to apply to the clinical registry?	No. The required qualifying credential for the clinical practice enhancement is a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree.
I live in another province. Am I still eligible to apply?	Yes. However, out of province applicants must be fully registered with ACSW to be eligible to apply for the clinical practice enhancement. All qualifying requirements are applicable.
APPLICATION PROCESS	
What are the fees for the clinical practice enhancement?	The application fee to apply for the clinical practice enhancement or to become an approved clinical supervisor is \$100. To maintain the clinical practice enhancement, the annual renewal fee is \$50. This is in addition to the registration renewal fee of \$400. To pay, email clinical@acsw.ab.ca . Once your payment is processed, you will receive an invoice and the required application documents. Please note, payment must be received before application materials are released. Please view the Fee Schedule for more information.
How do I get the application form?	ACSW registrants interested in applying for the clinical practice enhancement may email clinical@acsw.ab.ca to request the application documents.



How do I submit the application form and supporting documents?	Completed applications, including the application fee and all required forms, must be emailed to clinical@acsw.ab.ca for review.
How long does the application review process take?	The review process typically takes about six weeks. Applicants will be notified of the outcome by email. If reviewers require clarification or additional information, applicants may be contacted during the review period using the email address provided in their application.
REQUIREMENTS	
What are the competence requirements for the clinical practice enhancement?	<p>Applicants must complete a minimum of 45 hours in each of the following three (3) categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Human Behaviour from a Biopsychosocial Perspective• Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment Planning• Psychotherapy and Clinical Practice Including Evidence-Based Approaches <p>Coursework must be at a post-secondary level (undergraduate or graduate,) or the equivalent, and may include relevant professional development or workshops with an evaluative component.</p>
What are examples of courses that meet the requirements?	<p>Examples vary, but common courses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Human Behaviour: Human development, HBSE (Human Behaviour in the Social Environment), child/adolescent/adult development.• Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment Planning: Courses that focus on DSM categories, assessment strategies, and treatment planning (e.g., Bow Valley College in Calgary offers a DSM-V course that meets this requirement).• Psychotherapy and Clinical Practice: Courses or workshops covering therapeutic modalities, clinical



	<p>intervention skills, or evidence-based approaches to psychotherapy (e.g., Clinical Practice with Children, Groups, or Special Populations; CBT; DBT; EMDR; and similar modalities).</p>															
<p>Do I need to complete all required coursework prior to applying to the Pre-Supervision stream?</p>	<p>No. Coursework does not need to be completed before applying to the Pre-Supervision stream. However, all coursework must be completed before you can be approved to register for the ASWB Clinical Exam.</p>															
<p>Can I be approved for the post-supervision stream without completing all required courses?</p>	<p>No. All coursework requirements must be met before applying to the Post-Supervision stream. Courses can be completed outside of Alberta.</p>															
<p>What are the supervised practice requirements for each stream?</p>	<p>Supervised practice requirements differ between the Pre-Supervision and Post-Supervision streams:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="813 978 1395 1862"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="813 978 969 1073">Requirement</th> <th data-bbox="969 978 1175 1073">Pre-Supervision Stream</th> <th data-bbox="1175 978 1395 1073">Post-Supervision Stream</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="813 1073 969 1251">Clinical Practice Hours</td> <td data-bbox="969 1073 1175 1251">Minimum 1,600 hours of post-MSW clinical practice</td> <td data-bbox="1175 1073 1395 1251">Minimum 3000 hours of post-MSW clinical practice (already completed)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="813 1251 969 1461">Supervision Hours</td> <td data-bbox="969 1251 1175 1461">Minimum 100 hours of direct clinical supervision</td> <td data-bbox="1175 1251 1395 1461">Minimum 100 hours of direct clinical supervision (already completed)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="813 1461 969 1713">Supervisor</td> <td data-bbox="969 1461 1175 1713">Must secure a registered clinical social worker (RCSW) before beginning supervision</td> <td data-bbox="1175 1461 1395 1713">Must demonstrate supervision was completed under a qualified clinical supervisor</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="813 1713 969 1862">Timeframe</td> <td data-bbox="969 1713 1175 1862">Supervision must be completed over at least 2</td> <td data-bbox="1175 1713 1395 1862">Must demonstrate having completed a minimum of 5 years post-MSW</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Requirement	Pre-Supervision Stream	Post-Supervision Stream	Clinical Practice Hours	Minimum 1,600 hours of post-MSW clinical practice	Minimum 3000 hours of post-MSW clinical practice (already completed)	Supervision Hours	Minimum 100 hours of direct clinical supervision	Minimum 100 hours of direct clinical supervision (already completed)	Supervisor	Must secure a registered clinical social worker (RCSW) before beginning supervision	Must demonstrate supervision was completed under a qualified clinical supervisor	Timeframe	Supervision must be completed over at least 2	Must demonstrate having completed a minimum of 5 years post-MSW
Requirement	Pre-Supervision Stream	Post-Supervision Stream														
Clinical Practice Hours	Minimum 1,600 hours of post-MSW clinical practice	Minimum 3000 hours of post-MSW clinical practice (already completed)														
Supervision Hours	Minimum 100 hours of direct clinical supervision	Minimum 100 hours of direct clinical supervision (already completed)														
Supervisor	Must secure a registered clinical social worker (RCSW) before beginning supervision	Must demonstrate supervision was completed under a qualified clinical supervisor														
Timeframe	Supervision must be completed over at least 2	Must demonstrate having completed a minimum of 5 years post-MSW														



	<p>years and within 5 clinical social work years practice and post- MSW clinical supervision</p>
<p>What is the difference between a Clinical Supervisor of Record (CSOR) and an Other Clinical Supervisor (OCS)?</p>	<p>Clinical Supervisor of Record (CSOR): The CSOR is the primary supervisor responsible for overseeing a pre-supervision applicant's supervised clinical practice. They ensure supervision requirements are met, complete evaluation forms, and submit documentation directly to ACSW. Each applicant must have one designated CSOR. The CSOR must be a registered clinical social worker (RCSW).</p> <p>Other Clinical Supervisor (OCS): An OCS may provide additional supervision to a pre-supervision stream applicant's hours (up to 50 hours) to support an applicant's learning and development. OCS documentation must be submitted to the CSOR each evaluation period, who is ultimately accountable for reporting to ACSW. OCSs does not have to be RCSW or RSW but must be qualified regulated mental health professionals with expertise in clinical practice.</p>
<p>Who can provide references for the clinical practice enhancement application?</p>	<p>Pre-Supervision Stream: At the final evaluation, applicants must provide two references:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. CSOR reference: The Clinical Supervisor of Record provides a reference as part of the final evaluation.2. Second reference: Submitted at the final evaluation, this may come from an Other Clinical Supervisor (OCS), if applicable, or another regulated health professional who has direct knowledge of the applicant's current clinical social work practice.



	<p>Post-Supervision Stream: Applicants must submit two letters of reference from regulated health professionals who have direct knowledge of their current clinical social work practice. At least one reference must be from a clinical social worker.</p> <p>Submission: All references should be submitted directly to clinical@acsw.ab.ca or included in the application package, following the instructions in the application documents.</p>
<p>Which non-social work regulated professionals can provide references?</p>	<p>For both the Pre-Supervision and Post-Supervision streams, references may be provided by regulated health professionals other than clinical social workers, provided they have direct knowledge of the applicant’s clinical social work practice. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Psychologists or Registered Psychologists• Psychiatrists or Medical Doctors with relevant mental health expertise• Registered Nurses (RNs) or Nurse Practitioners with mental health experience• Occupational Therapists with mental health or clinical experience• Other regulated health professionals in their jurisdiction with relevant clinical expertise <p>All references must be able to attest to the applicant’s clinical competence, ethical practice, and professional conduct.</p>
<p>How often must RCSWs complete continuing competence activities to maintain their designation?</p>	<p>Registered clinical social workers (RCSWs) must complete continuing competence activities annually to maintain their designation. These activities include professional development, clinical training, and practice reflection that support ongoing</p>



ALBERTA COLLEGE OF
SOCIAL WORKERS

skill development and adherence to ethical and professional standards. Detailed requirements are outlined in the [ACSW Continuing Competence Program](#).